

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment has been prepared and filed in response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2008 regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application.

In that Action, the Examiner: (a) objected to the length of the Abstract of the Disclosure; (b) rejected claims 1-4, inclusive, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,621,545 to Motta *et al.*; (c) rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,072,591 to Harrington; (d) rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motta *et al.* in view of Harrington; (e) rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motta *et al.* in view of Harrington, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,751 to Wong; (f) rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motta *et al.* in view of Wong, and indicated the allowability of claims 7-9, inclusive.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Action and his comments, and by the present Amendment, proposes certain changes in the claims which are believed to place all claims now remaining in the application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, in conditions for immediate formal allowance. In addition to proposing certain claim changes herein, applicant also has shortened the Abstract of the Disclosure, and has corrected an inadvertent typographical error on page 4 in the specification.

While applicant does not agree with the Examiner's substantive rejections of certain ones of the originally presented claims, (a) claim 1 herein has been currently amended effectively to bring into its content the substantive contents of originally presented claims 6 and 7,

(b) claims 2 and 3 remain as original claims, (c) claim 4 has been currently amended to change its dependency from claim 1 to claim 3, (d) claim 5 has been currently amended to introduce a modest change in its introductory language, (e) claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice in favor of currently amended claim 1, (f) claim 8 has been modestly amended to change its dependency from claim 4 to claim 5, and to modify certain of its originally-contained language in order to read more comfortably from its new depend-from claim 5, and (g) claims 9-11, inclusive, have been canceled without prejudice.

With entry of the claim changes thus proposed herein, applicant asserts that all claims now remaining in this application, on the basis of formal entry of the present Amendment, are fully in conditions for allowance, and such favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections state in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any



additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

55428

Respectfully Submitted,

ROBERT D. VARITZ, P.C.

Registration No: 31436

Telephone: 503-720-1983

Facsimile: 503-233-7730

Robert D. Varitz

4915 S.E. 33d Place

Portland, Oregon 97202

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I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

Robert D. Varitz